

To: CN=Karen Schwinn/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Cc: []
Bcc: []
From: CN=Tom Hagler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Thur 1/7/2010 7:15:30 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

You are, and you did.

Oh one who must be obeyed.....

-----Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US
Date: 01/07/2010 11:05AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

I thought I was the one who got to make assignments.

~~~~~  
KAREN SCHWINN  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
415/972-3472  
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~~~~~

Tom Hagler---01/07/2010 10:36:52 AM---OK, Carolyn is going, and she knows P+N from the NEPA side.

From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US
To: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/07/2010 10:36 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

OK, Carolyn is going, and she knows P+N from the NEPA side.

I was just hoping to get someone from the 404 side to sit in.

-----Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US
Date: 01/07/2010 09:55AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

Erin may or may not start next week half-time. She's easing her kid into day-care. I expect to talk to her this week. Not sure its fair or feasible for her to attend.

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Tom Hagler---01/07/2010 09:53:09 AM---yes. I gave the ladies the number.

From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US
To: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/07/2010 09:53 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

yes. I gave the ladies the number.

Does Erin have a functional email or voicemail yet? Can I get her to go to the Corps meeting with the DWR re: P+N for BDCP. It's next thursday. She can claim ignorance legitimately.

-----Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US
Date: 01/07/2010 08:28AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

you must be working from the comfort of you home today? So we'll call you at 3:00?

~~~~~

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~~~~~

Tom Hagler---01/07/2010 08:26:42 AM---Maybe Sean Hannity can give him a tour.

From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US
To: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 01/07/2010 08:26 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Agriculture

Maybe Sean Hannity can give him a tour.

-----Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: sam ziegler, Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US
Date: 01/07/2010 08:01AM
Subject: Fw: Agriculture

fyi. Jared has expressed an interest in visiting the San Joaquin valley.
Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

Alexis Strauss

----- Original Message -----

From: Alexis Strauss
Sent: 01/07/2010 10:46 AM EST
To: Karen Schwinn
Subject: Agriculture

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

Teddy Ryerson

----- Original Message -----

From: Teddy Ryerson
Sent: 01/06/2010 10:24 PM PST
To: Jovita Pajarillo
Cc: Alexis Strauss; Abigail Gaudario
Subject: Re: Agriculture

This is great Jovita. I also caught Kathy Taylor briefly and let her know of Jared's interest in a visit to the SJV, given the myriad air/water/EJ/etc issues. I suggested we could add, if possible, a tour of one of the farms which uses integrated pest management or other innovative approaches as an alternative to traditional pesticides. Could you touch base with Kathy (and others as appropriate) with the goal of setting up a near-term briefing for Jared on Ag issues as well as a visit to SJ/Central Valley? Thanks much!

Nancy J. (Teddy) Ryerson
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Jovita Pajarillo---01/06/2010 01:17:51 PM---Jared, To follow up on our brief conversation on agriculture and your request to visit the San Joaquin

From: Jovita Pajarillo/R9/USEPA/US

To: Jared Blumenfeld/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Alexis Strauss/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Teddy Ryerson/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Abigail Gaudario/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 01/06/2010 01:17 PM

Subject: Agriculture

Jared,

To follow up on our brief conversation on agriculture and your request to visit the San Joaquin Valley, I have prepared a brief overview of sorts (there are obvious gaps), of what I consider as pronounced ag issues, help give you a sense of them and how we've engaged with ag. As you said at yesterday's "all hands" meeting, we certainly have our challenges but we find opportunities as well.

Also, please understand my role and expertise on agricultural issues has been as the lead manager in Water Division on this topic. Clearly, other program issues overlap, or the the issues themselves are cross-cutting, such as pesticides and air quality issues as they affect water quality and watershed health. Kathy Taylor, CED, is the regional ag advisor as she was designated by Wayne Nastri. Her primary focus has been the Central Valley and coordination with HQ.

Issues/Overview

1. Agriculture is diverse and therefore lacks a unified voice. We have traditional and conventional agriculture as well as sustainable and organic. There is tension between the two, mostly on the part of conventional ag which perceives the other as a threat to its market and as maligning it. Sustainable and organic farmers and ranchers just seem to want a peaceful coexistence. We have few commodity crops grown here in the region, primarily some cotton, dairy and rice. Not a lot of Farm Bill subsidies are given here as compared to the mid-west. What is mostly grown here are specialty crops such as leafy greens, vegetables, melons, fruits and nuts, winegrapes and hay. Although these crops are not considered commodity crops under the Farm Bill, the 2007 bill does provide grant dollars for the first time for research, education, and markets. CA is seeing a lot of this "specialty crop block grant" dollars.
2. Rural communities rely on agriculture as their economic driver and is integral to their culture/society. Urban communities are the primary consumers of organic and sustainably grown products due to income, education, and proximity to locally grown produce (e.g., SF Foodshed, Community-Supported Agriculture, Slow Food, and farmers markets).
3. EJ/social justice issues include "food deserts" where residents of remote rural communities drive more than 30 miles to the nearest food market (e.g., Kettleman City), ground water basins contaminated with chemicals, salts, and nitrates, and poor air quality. Other issues in these rural communities include high unemployment due to the recession and drought, tenuous farm labor practices, and inadequate housing. The Obama administration's USDA, is actively promoting the use of food stamps and WIC at local farmers markets as a means to provide fresh and nutritious food to its underserved clientele (however, presently the focus is on inner city neighborhoods such as West Oakland, Seattle, San Diego--there is a movement to get this to include rural communities).
4. Water quality: impaired waters due to ag sources of pollutants (e.g., sediment, nutrients, pesticides); habitat destruction (e.g., wetlands); individual corporate food safety programs that conflict with environmental regulations and conservation goals (e.g., Central Coast).
5. Water quantity: drought, endless water wars, over commitment of the resource, water rights, ESA (i.e.,

personifies the Bay/Delta)

6. Air quality: primarily in the San Joaquin Valley as it is designated for nonattainment for PM10, NOx, and ozone precursors (our air folks can provide more facts). The focus is primarily on dairies and diesel engines used on farms.
7. Innovation in agriculture: renewable energy projects such as dairy manure for methane digesters or walnut hulls to produce biogas; conservation tillage which reduces runoff and erosion, builds soil profile, retains moisture, etc.; "smart" sprayers for applying pesticides efficiently; programs that provide financial assistance to replace dirty diesel irrigation pumps and other farm equipment.
8. Climate change and agriculture: AB 32's scoping plan includes an ag sector strategic plan with a primary focus on dairies and otherwise lacks data to determine the impacts of other agricultural activities (research is underway to study fertilizer application, pesticides, etc.). CDFA is leading efforts on ag and climate change in preparing the industry to adapt to changes that may occur (e.g., seawater intrusion, extreme weather events, food shortages, etc.).

Regulatory Programs Addressing Ag (CA)

Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) Impaired Waters and TMDLs: There are impaired waterbodies listed due to pollutants generated from agricultural activities

CAFO NPDES Permits (concentrated animal feeding operations--Santa Ana Regional Water Board)

Porter-Cologne/State Water Code: conditional ag waivers for both cropland and rangelands, individual waste discharge requirements (permits); general WDR permit for dairies in the Central Valley (approximately 1400 dairies covered); TMDL implementation plans

Nonregulatory Programs

CWA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program: grants for watershed protection and rehabilitation; control, prevention, abatement of pollution

CWA Section 320 National Estuary Program: addresses ag's impacts to the quality and health of Morro Bay and San Francisco Bay

Key Partners

1. California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP): In 1999, EPA joined an existing partnership of 14 members established by a 1998 memorandum of understanding. We provided a grant of \$435K to support the environmental stewardship and certification program for dairy producers to assist them in complying with local, state and federal regulations (i.e., compliance through education, and they use our EPA logo). Other partners include UC Davis, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Natural Resources Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State Water Resources Control Board, CalEPA, Western United Dairymen, California Dairy Campaign, Sustainable Conservation, etc. CDQAP has been instrumental in assisting producers through numerous educational workshops throughout the Central Valley to comply with the Central Valley Regional Water Board's general order for dairies (adopted May 2007), air permits issued by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District, and recently held workshops to promote humane animal care. CDQAP received the Governor Schwarzenegger's award for environmental and economic leadership in 2007.
2. Other parties we coordinate and communicate with on a more informal basis include the farm bureau(s), the Agricultural Sustainability Institute and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (both at UC Davis), the state departments of agriculture, NRCS, ag commissioners, resource conservation districts, and Sustainable Conservation (based in SF).
3. Enviro groups we work with include NRDC, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, Audubon, and Wildfarm Alliance
4. Industry: we have a good relationship with Western United Dairymen and work with other trade organizations as well (e.g., Western Growers Association, CA Cattlemen's Association, CA Winegrape Growers Association)

Some examples of where I am engaged

CDQAP

USDA's NRCS and Rural Development (for all states in the region)

Roots of Change as a member of its Stewardship Council; ROC promotes sustainable food policies (includes farm workers)

Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform's (POWER) CA Water Policy Conference: as a member of the conference planning committee adding an EPA/ag perspective to water resources.

CA Interagency Agriculture Coordinating Team (IACT): as chair, we convene quarterly to share information, problem solve, and coordinate Farm Bill conservation programs among a group of state and federal agencies (e.g., SWRCB, CDFA, DPR, CARB, NRCS, UC Davis, Central Valley Water Board, SJQPCD, etc.)

AZ Ag and Water Quality Work Group: another group I pull together semi-annually for the same purposes as the IACT.

SWRCB's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Roundtable (includes all 9 regional water boards and DPR)

Farm, Food Safety, and Conservation Network: based in Monterey, this group came together to coordinate and work on resolving food safety and environmental conflicts. Members include growers, resource conservation districts, NRCS, Central Coast Regional Water Board, enviros (TNC, Wildfarm Alliance), Fish & Game, NMFS, NOAA, and leafy green handlers and auditors.

The Secretary of CDFA and the American Farmland Trust joined to create a CA Ag Vision 2030. In August, I was invited to join a group charged with developing this vision. A group process got underway and a draft has been prepared that will be publicly vetted early this year by the State Board of Food and Agriculture.

Ideas

Plan and organize a tour for you of the San Joaquin Valley; also consider Yolo County (Capay Valley) for a flavor of sustainable and organic ag, both ranching and farming; Monterey/Salinas Valley areas for specialty crops

Have you convene a "roundtable" with a diverse array of agricultural and environmental interests. We can explore purpose, meaning (input? strategy? policy?), issues/needs, results, etc.

Identify key meetings or events for you to attend; organize our own

Identify key leaders, officials, and community/movement organizers to meet with individually or as a group (e.g., Dolores Huerta)

Others? What can EPA do as facilitator, convener, or enabler on issues?

And just to let you know, I was the first EPA person to be accepted in the California Agricultural Leadership Program (1997-99). It created quite a stir among the ag fellows in my class and especially J.G. Boswell who created CALP. But I feel I gained their grudging respect. It not only helped me develop skills for leadership but also gave me an extensive ag network with all the alumni. Telling an aggie that you are an alumnus of Class 28 really helps one's credibility! Also as important to me is receiving one of Felicia's first "ambassador" awards of which I am proud.

I apologize for this lengthy "summary." I will schedule an appointment through Abi to meet with you and hear your thoughts and what next steps I can assist you with.

Thanks.